Proposal to Modernise Madrasas and Maktabs

1047. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise Madrasas and maktabs;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enable the students of these institutions to compete for mainstream jobs;

(c) if not, what would be the future of students; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme for providing them some employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, The Government of India operates a scheme of financial assistance to voluntary organisations/Government aided institutions for modernisation of Madrasas by introducing Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum. The scheme provides assistance for teachers' salary to teach modern subjects, purchase of Science/Maths kits and establishment of book banks. The Scheme provides opportunities to students of these institutions to acquire education comparable to National Education System, which enables the students to compete for mainstream jobs. However, Government have no scheme to provide them employment.

Reservation for Women in Professional Courses

1048. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have reservation for women in the professional courses, particularly in Medical and Management courses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether any steps are being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal, at present, with the Government to have

reservation for women in professional courses, including those in management. Information with regard to reservation for women in Medical courses is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Adult Literacy Rate

1049. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present adult literacy rate in country, State-wise;

(b) how does this compare with other developing countries in the world;

(c) whether any proposal to launch new programmes, aimed at increasing adult literacy in the country, is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) According to the National Sample Survey Organisation in the 53rd round the literacy rate in the country State-wise, during 1997 is given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

(b) India has now outstripped countries such as Nigeria, Iraq, Egypt, Ghana, Saudi Arabia and Uganda and is far a head of its neighbours, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

(c) and (d) No proposal to launch any new programme to raise the adult literacy rate in the country is envisaged. However, several steps have been taken to revamp and reorient the adult literacy programmes which include the enhanced focus on female literacy; greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations; strengthening of State Resource Centres; opening of Shramik Vidyapeeths in rural areas; decentralisation of financial and administrative powers to State Liberacy Mission Authorities; ensuring better follow up and consolidation through extending the programme of post literacy and continuing education etc.

Condition of National library, Calcutta

†1050. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.